

REMARKS

Applicant has considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter as set forth below.

Applicant has inserted subheadings into the specification of the captioned application as recommended by the Examiner.

The Examiner has stated that the application does not include an Abstract of the Disclosure and thus an Abstract is required to be submitted on a separate sheet. Applicant respectfully notes that the captioned application is based on PCT International Application No. PCT/GB00/00620 published as WO 00/50134. An Abstract is present on the front page of PCT Publication No. WO 00/50134 as earlier submitted. For the convenience of the Examiner, however, applicant has again provided this Abstract in the present Amendment.

The Examiner has noted that drawings are required under 37 CFR 1.83(a) with respect to certain features of claims 1 and 2. Attached hereto are proposed Figures 1 and 2. The specification has been amended to refer to the proposed Figures 1 and 2. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sines et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,518,249) in view of Acuff (U.S. Patent No. 4,219,197).

Applicant respectfully submits that Sines and Acuff fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The claimed invention is directed to a pack of playing cards having differentiated faces bearing conventional, or substantially conventional, markings and backs bearing different markings which are coordinated with the designs on the face of the cards as determined by rules of specific games. The designs on the backs of the cards will depend on the nature of the game to be played with the cards. For example, the backs of at least some of the cards can bear words or portions of a poem, and the arrangement of the words or poem portions on the backs of the cards can be such that when the cards are assembled in accordance with rules of a specific game applying to the markings on the faces of the cards, the words or poem portions on the backs of the cards can be coordinated to construct a sentence or sentences or a poem. As an example for a poem, sets of cards having face values in sequence can have on their backs individual sections of a completed poem such as shown in proposed Figure 2 and described in the specification at pages 3-4. The Examiner may also view applicant's website at www.cardzdotti.com to view illustrations of cards in accordance with the invention.

As described in the specification at page 4, the coordination of markings on the card backs of the claimed invention is not limited to text images, but can be, for

example, a set of pictorial or visual images or mix of graphics, text or image, which, for example, when assembled in sequence, can form a short comic strip or reflect some other pattern, sequence or relationship. Generally, the claimed invention allows provision of an enormously wide variety of packs of playing cards with associated "rules for play" which provide enjoyment through education and amusement for the card players.

In asserting obviousness of the claimed invention, the Examiner relies on the combined teachings of Sines in view of Acuff. Applicant respectfully submits that Sines and Acuff fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

More specifically, Sines teaches a pack of playing cards having a set of differentiated face designs on the playing cards in order to determine by peeking at a corner of the face of one card whether a dealer has blackjack. The cards preferably have diagonally opposing primary and secondary corners on the face of the cards. All cards in the deck have indicia or markings at primary corners of the faces which indicate the nature of the cards (suit and card type). Secondary corners of a first group do not indicate the specific nature or count of the card. The secondary corners of a second group, such as aces, have secondary indicia. This allows the dealer to selectively peek at the secondary corner of his face-down card to determine whether a blackjack hand exists. If blackjack does not exist, then

the dealer does not know the face-down card and cheating or unintentional disclosure is prevented.

The markings and characteristics of the cards in Sines relate only to the faces of the cards, not to the backs of the cards. As such, the backs of the cards in Sines are identical which is required due to the nature of the game, i.e. blackjack, played with the cards. The claimed invention is distinct from Sines in that the backs and faces of the cards of the claimed invention have differentiated markings. Accordingly, Sines does not teach or suggest a set of playing cards with differentiated markings on the backs and faces of playing cards as claimed.

Acuff does not overcome the deficiencies of Sines as set forth above. Acuff teaches a deck of playing cards with faces having two rows of word components printed in each card corner along the standard playing card designations. Specifically, the cards in Acuff bear in their upper left corner and lower right corner two rows of indicia which are selected from common word components such as single consonants and vowels, double consonants and vowels, prefixes, suffixes, diphthongs and blends. The indicia on the playing cards disclosed in Acuff all appear on the faces of the playing cards. Acuff does not teach or suggest differing markings on the backs of the playing cards.

5534/USSN 09/913,511
Group Art Unit 3714

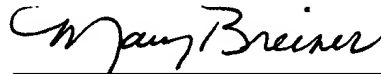
Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the secondary reference Acuff does not make up for the shortcomings of the primary reference Sines. Further, neither reference suggests the claimed invention. If the teachings of Sines and Acuff were combined, all differentiated markings would appear only on the faces of the cards. No suggestion is present to modify Sines or Acuff by modifying the backs of the cards disclosed in such a way as to obtain the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

RAMSAY WOOD

By



Mary J. Breiner, Attorney
Registration No. 33,161
BREINER & BREINER, L.L.C.
115 North Henry Street
P.O. Box 19290
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-0290

Telephone (703) 684-6885

Attachment: Proposed Figures 1 and 2 (2 Sheets)